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Double-Standard Diplomacy

A few weeks back, members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee concluded a special inquiry by warmly reaffirming their approval of the nomination of Henry A. Kissinger as Secretary of State. Last spring, it has now been revealed, there was another kind of confirmation hearing. It confirmed suspicions that the Central Intelligence Agency had done its best—or worst—to bring down the Allende government in Chile.

The proceedings, as we noted yesterday, featured closed-door testimony by CIA Director Colby that the CIA was given authority to invest more than \$8 million between 1970 and 1973 to overthrow Allende—who died a year ago, assertedly by his own hand, after a ruthless military coup. Colby, a specialist in covert CIA operations, explained that they had been approved by an intelligence board headed by Kissinger.

To Rep. Harrington (D-Mass), that information immediately suggested Congressional probing. While Kissinger has often objected that there should be no U. S. interference in Soviet "internal affairs"—such as policy on emigration—he apparently holds different views

about American intervention in Chile. But Harrington, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, has been unable so far to secure any commitment to investigate from either his group or its Senate counterpart.

That is hard to understand, even though the Secretary has been treated by Congress as a sacrosanct personage for some time. Allende frequently charged that he was a CIA target—and he was evidently correct. Many of the most prominent members of his government still suffocate in the junta's jails. And anxious speculation is inevitable about how many other governments are deemed by the CIA and the intelligence board headed by Kissinger to be appropriate subjects for U. S.-financed subversion.

The issue is not whether the Allende regime was beyond reproach; it is, among other things, whether we have a double standard under which freely-elected governments are subject to our covert sabotage while despotisms are considered beyond even moral remonstrance. Are these topics taboo for the Fulbright and Morgan committees? Who has a clearer duty to investigate them?

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